

## At the Polling Place, an Election Observer must:

- ✓ Notify the chief election inspector she/he is at the polling place to observe
- ✓ Follow the directives of the chief election inspector
- ✓ Sign an election observer form
- ✓ Wear a name tag



## Remember:

- The chief election inspector is in charge of the polling place. All inquiries should be made of the chief election inspector
- Challenges to voters must be filed with the chief election inspector. Follow the process outlined by Wisconsin Administrative Rule GAB Chapter 9
- Candidates are allowed in the polling place only after it has closed at 8:00 p.m.
- Polling places in Wisconsin are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

## Viewing documents

Observers are not entitled to view registration forms or proof of residence documents while voters are registering. Observers may ask the chief inspector to view documents that are available when doing so will not delay or disrupt the process, but this may not be possible when polls are busy, and they may not view confidential information. The chief inspector has sole discretion to determine whether such documents may be viewed during voting hours.

## Election Observers may not:

- Engage in electioneering\*
- Handle official election documents
- Have conversations about candidates, parties or ballot questions
- Make calls / use cell phones for voice calls inside the polling area
- Wear clothing or buttons related to candidates, parties or referenda
- Use video or still cameras inside the polling area during the voting hours
- Interact with voters
- View confidential information on the poll list, or take photos or make photocopies of the poll list on Election Day



*\* Electioneering is defined in Wisconsin law as any activity which intended to influence voting at an Election. § 12.03 Stats.*

## Communications Media:

Members of the communications media should notify the chief election inspector at each polling place where they intend to observe an election. The chief election inspector will keep a list of members of the media. Members of the media may use video or still cameras at the polling place if they are not used in a manner that allows the observer to see or record how an elector has voted and provided the cameras do not interfere with voting or disrupt the orderly conduct of the election.

## Polling Place Accessibility Assessments:

Individuals may assess accessibility requirements in Wisconsin polling places if the following rules are observed:

- Assessors should notify the municipal clerk in advance.
- Assessors may wear identifying name tags or shirts.
- Assessors may work outside the observers' area unless their work is judged to be disruptive.
- Assessors may take still photos or videotape for documentation.
- Election officials - clerks, chief election inspectors and poll workers - should facilitate the work of accessibility assessors.

## Election Observation at Other Locations:

### Municipal Clerk's Office, Absentee Ballot Canvass, or Central Count

Observers may be present during absentee voting in the clerk's office (if it's in a public location), an absentee ballot canvass, or centralized vote counting. The municipal clerk is in charge, and observers shall follow the clerk's directives. Video and still cameras are allowed.

### Nursing & Retirement Home, Community-Based Residential Facility

Only observers appointed by the two major political parties may be present during absentee voting in nursing and retirement homes, and community-based residential facilities. The special voting deputies are in charge, and observers shall follow the deputies' directives. Video and still cameras are not allowed.

### Recounts

Observers may be present during election recounts, including candidates and their counsel. The board of canvassers is in charge, and observers shall follow the board's directives. Video and still cameras are allowed.

#### Contact Information Government Accountability Board

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Wisconsin Government  
Accountability Board

# Wisconsin Election Observers

## Rules-at-a-Glance

### Wisconsin Administrative Rule GAB Chapter 4 Election Observers

The State of Wisconsin permits individuals to observe voting and the election administration process at polling places on Election Day. It also permits observers to view the absentee voting process in the municipal clerk's office, the absentee vote canvass, central count processes, recounts, and voting in nursing and retirement homes, and community-based residential facilities.

These **Rules-at-a-Glance** should be viewed in conjunction with the companion Wisconsin Administrative Rule GAB Chapter 4 brochure.

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